

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheets for FIGS. 1a-5 are enclosed which formalize the drawings that were submitted with the application. No other changes have been made. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Formal drawings are submitted herewith under separate Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Approval by the Examiner of these drawings is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled. The amendments to claims 1 and 9 are substantially the same. As amended both of these claims require that the color filter pattern have a plurality of color filter kernels wherein each filter kernel has the same colors in the same predetermined arrangement. The kernels are arranged in two different uniformly distribute sets (i.e. see FIG. 2b). The integration time of the different sets of kernels is controlled such that it is different for each different set of kernels.

The informalities in the claims are believed to now have been overcome by the above discussed amendment. If the Examiner has any difficulties with these changes Applicants attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Guidash (US 6,714,239).

Amended claim 1 requires different sets of color filter kernels that have different integration times as discussed above. Guidash '239 does not control the integration time of different sets of kernels, but rather controls the integration time of red, green, and blue pixels not kernels. Accordingly under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) Guidash '239 should no longer be a reference as amended claim 1 defines subject matter not disclosed in Guidash '239. Guidash '239 was assigned to the Eastman Kodak Company and continues to be assigned to Kodak and the present invention also is assigned to Eastman Kodak Company. Mr. Guidash is the same inventor in both cases and therefore the invention was not derived by another.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 11-14, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Morris et al. (US 6,665,010).

Independent claims 1, and 9 contain subject matter for providing different integration times for the different sets of kernels. The kernels are identical except for their spatial location. Morris does disclose a plurality of groups of pixels however, the groups 113 may be associated with different color pixels as stated in lines 31-41 of column 3, one group may be associated with red pixel color and another with green pixel color. Moreover, there is no mention or suggestion in Morris for the uniform distribution of the groups 113. As further discussed in this column by having different color pixels, concentric brightness rings, caused by a capture lens, may be corrected. Applicant can find nothing in Morris that discloses, suggests or provides any motivation for the claimed structure of different sets of identical kernels wherein the kernels are arranged in at least two different uniformly distributed sets, and the integration time for each set is different.

Accordingly it is believed that independent claims 1 and 9 along with their dependent claims are unobvious and should be allowed.

Turning to independent claims 8 and 17, which define a particular readout mechanism. As shown in FIG. 4b, a single row sync signal 80 is used for reading out data signal values from pixels from two separate rows. This arrangement is set forth in these claims and provides a highly efficient readout system which reduces the number of row sync signals. Turning to Morris and in particular to FIG. 5, Applicants can find no structure corresponding to a sync signal that reads out pixels from two different rows. The time measuring circuit, one for each of the groups 113, is responsive to pixel sensing unit 118, when an intensity exceeds a threshold level. This has nothing to do with reading out data signal values from two different rows using the same sync signal. Applicants believe both independent claims 8 and 17 define subject matter that is not disclosed in, or suggested by Morris. Accordingly independent claims 8 and 17 should be allowable.

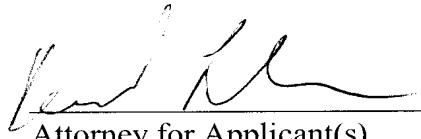
Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris et al. (US Pat. No. 6,665,010) in view of Bayer (US Pat. No. 3,971,065).

Morris has been discussed above. It is true that Bayer patterns are well known, however, claim 10 depends upon claim 9 and should be allowed along with it. Nothing in Bayer suggest the arrangement set forth in claim 9.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 22,363

Raymond L. Owens/mjl
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-477-4653
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.